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Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:05:21 PM
Attachments: [IMG_3495.jpg](#)

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 17:30 CST

Overview: Sampling continued for a second day on 4/12/17. Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

EPA representatives were available to the press for a briefing at approximately 15:30 on 4/12/17 and answered inquiries regarding the response effort.

- Sampling data has been coming in from 4/11/17 sampling events.
 - Some residual chrome can still be seen in water sampling results
- Additional sampling points have been identified and is ongoing.
 - Some predetermined sampling points were not able to be sampled due to safety concerns on the water and the level of wave action. However corresponding shore sediment samples and wading level water samples were taken.
- US Steel has said based on their compliance composite samplers, they released 138.8 lbs of chrome on April 10th and 206.72 lbs of chrome on 11th.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
- Continued sampling of Burns Ditch and Lake Michigan will continue tomorrow 4/13/17
- National Park Service beaches are still currently closed.
 - Sediment sampling of the shoreline has started and will correspond with water samples north in Lake Michigan

NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Chemical-Spill-Forces-Closure-of-Indiana-Dunes-Beaches-419279844.html>

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/248120304-story>

<http://abc7chicago.com/news/us-steel-reports-chemical-spill-in-portage-canal/1862338/>

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*****Please note as of 01/06/2017: I will no longer be with the Water Division of EPA Region 5 and have taken a position with EPA Region 5 Superfund. For all water related questions please contact my previous supervisor vantil.barbara@epa.gov *****

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